

## HEADS TELL TALES OF WOE

Seek a Decree of Separation and Relate Lively Experiences in Court.

He Flourished a Revolver and Treated Her to an Impromptu Shower Bath of Ice Water.

HOPED HE'D FALL AND BREAK HIS NECK

Once She Threatened to Kill Him, and Brandished an Open Razor in One of Her Extreme Fits of Ill-Temper.

Mr. and Mrs. Willis T. Mead are fighting bitterly in the Supreme Court for a decree of separation, and each accuses the other of cruelty. Their case was up before Justice Tracy, yesterday, on the application of Grace B. Mead, the plaintiff, for \$15 weekly alimony, which was granted by the Court. The couple were married November 16, 1887. It was Mrs. Mead's second matrimonial venture. Mrs. Mead had previously received a proposal from one Otto Talmadge, and had promised to marry him, but the engagement was broken, and Mr. Talmadge is now the husband of another woman. He is a rich man and a resident of Connecticut.

Mrs. Mead says her husband caused her to faint by pointing a loaded revolver at her. He threw her down violently and emptied ice water from a large pitcher all over her very wet gown.

The husband in his reply, which was drafted by Howe & Hummel, his attorneys, accuses his wife of having threatened to kill him while in a violent passion. Once, he says, she said she wished he would fall off his horse and break his neck. Another time she brandished an open razor and said she would kill herself if she could not all him with it. Furthermore, he alleges, she used to beat him with her hands and feet, and in one instance she threw a glass of water at his head.

Replying to her husband's charges, Mrs. Mead says there was nothing improper in the letters she wrote to her admirer. She denies all of Mead's other statements against her. Her husband, she says, is a rich man, and she is a woman of only ordinary size.

## COLLIS WANTS MORE ROOM.

Public Works Offices May Be Moved to American Trust Building.

The building No. 31 Chambers street that for so many years has been occupied as the offices of the Department of Public Works has become entirely inadequate for the Department, and since January 1 Commissioner Collis has been inspecting offices in the large buildings in the vicinity of City Hall and quietly arranging to move the offices of the Department to the American Trust Building, at the corner of Spruce and Nassau streets. The building is owned by the American Trust Company, and the Commissioner has been negotiating with the company for the use of the building. The building is a fine one, and the Commissioner is very much pleased with it. He has been looking for a new office for some time, and he is very glad to have found one so suitable.

The American Trust Company Building is the highest in the city, and if it is decided to move the Department of Public Works to that building, the offices will be on the top floor, and the Commissioner will be able to see the city from his window.

## CONSPIRACY, SHE CHARGES.

Mrs. Quintern Says Her Husband's Divorce Suit Is Trumped Up.

Edward Quintern, of No. 260 West Thirtieth street, is bringing suit in the Superior Court against his wife, Ida, for absolute divorce. He charges unchastity in his affidavit, and has sworn statements in support of his allegation from Richard Leuzke, of No. 406 Seventh avenue; James Lindsay, of No. 211 West Twenty-ninth street; and David N. Gibbs, of No. 461 West Twenty-ninth street. Each of the three admits having been too friendly with Mrs. Quintern.

The wife denies the charges made by her husband and his three witnesses, and says they are trumped up by his mother, who is worth \$40,000. Mrs. Quintern adds that her husband wants to get a divorce so he can marry Miss Tina Mitchell, daughter of a wealthy widow who owns a hotel at Coney Island.

The wife further says that her husband was married January 31, 1884, and they have no children.

## WHY SHE BROKE THE WINDOW.

Mrs. Meinecke Tells in Court of an Insult That Her Husband Gave Her.

Mrs. Jessie Meinecke, the wife of Christian Meinecke, a wholesale druggist, Nos. 225 and 227 Greenwich street, was in Court Street Court, yesterday, on the charge made by her brother-in-law and her husband's partner, Edward Rose, of having broken a window of the store last Tuesday. After her arrest she tried to take her life in the Oak Street Station by taking chloride of mercury.

Mrs. Meinecke was quiet, and in a low voice told the Magistrate that she had been living apart from her husband at the Grand Union Hotel, and that she had gone to the store to ask her husband for money. He had told her he would give her a ticket to Chicago and \$25. When that was refused, she could make a living on the streets. Enraged by his words, she had picked up an iron bar and smashed a plate glass window. She was held in \$300 bail.

## YOUNG BECHERT'S CRAZE.

Says He's an Army Officer and a Millionaire and Draws Big Checks.

Edward H. Bechert, twenty-one years old, of No. 111 Leroy street, was arraigned in the Jefferson Market Police Court, yesterday, on a charge of insanity, preferred by his father, John M. Bechert. The father told Magistrate Flannery that his son is a soldier under the name of "The Prince" and that he is a millionaire, and he has been drawing checks for an enormous amount and acting in an extraordinary manner. He feared the boy would harm himself if he were not committed to some institution.

The prisoner refused to talk to the Magistrate, except to say that he was a clerk, and that he was a millionaire. The Magistrate committed him to the care of the Commissioners of Charities for an examination as to his sanity. He was taken in an ambulance to Bellevue Hospital yesterday.

## SILBERSTEIN IN POLITICS.

The Missing Notary Once Ran for Alderman on the Republican Ticket.

Another Draft Cashed.

Moritz N. Silberstein, the notary public, at No. 5 Bowling Green, for whom a large number of German residents are looking in the hope of recovering at least part of the legacies he collected for them in Germany, is still missing from his home, at No. 180 East One Hundred and Fourteenth street. Silberstein continued his operations, it would seem, almost up to the time he dropped out of sight.

The case presents several very peculiar features. In the first place, Silberstein was something of a politician. He was an entry clerk in the Immigration Bureau during President Harrison's Administration, and as such provided himself with a great deal of information about immigrants, which he subsequently utilized when he went into the notary business, and posed as the German Consul or his agent. He also ran for Alderman in his district on the Republican ticket a few years ago.

When he was arrested on September 11 last on the complaint of Mrs. Mary J. Goldstein, of No. 235 East Ninth street, for defrauding her out of some property, he was put under \$1,500 bail by Magistrate Tracy. He has been a general look-out since then. He has not been seen since he failed to appear for examination. The bail has not been declared forfeited, and the case has not been sent to the Grand Jury, and the only official step taken in the premises since the fugitive's failure to appear for trial has been a general look-out. That was on September 13, and since then he has failed to appear for examination. He has not been seen since he failed to appear for examination.

The first witness called was Dr. Ira O. Tracy, chief assistant in the Long Island Hospital for Insane. Dr. Tracy testified that he had treated between 3,500 and 4,000 cases of insanity during his professional career.

"Is there a Mrs. Mary Maguire confined at present in the Long Island Insane Hospital?" asked Mr. Chanler.

"Yes, there is," said the witness.

Mrs. Maguire is a first cousin of the defendant, and has been in the Flatbush Asylum for four years.

Mr. Chanler then read a long hypothetical question to the witness.

"Assuming all the facts in the question to be true, was the defendant on July 10 sane or insane?" asked Mr. Chanler.

Dr. Tracy paused a moment, and then replied slowly:

"The defendant was insane."

Dr. Tracy then stated that he examined the defendant on Friday last.

"The examination I made," said Dr. Tracy, "suggested to me that the defendant might be a dangerous lunatic."

THE DUMMY CHUCKER.

Assistant District Attorney McIntyre then cross-examined the witness.

"Did you ever hear of the dummy-chucker's case?" he asked.

"Not to my recollection," replied the witness.

"What! not ever heard of the dummy-chucker?" exclaimed Mr. McIntyre.

Mr. McIntyre then explained that the "dummy-chucker" was the nickname of a man who feigned insanity successfully for two years and a half and baffled all the experts. Then Dr. Tracy remembered he had read of such a case.

In reply to another question, Dr. Tracy said he had asked McGowan in the Tombs why he shot Rose Finn, and that he replied he did not know.

"Is that an irrational answer?" asked Justice Smyth.

"Well, in one way it is rational, and in another it is not."

"Do you believe he was irrational from that fact?" continued His Honor.

"I do not, sir."

"Well, now, tell us what action on the part of this defendant when you examined him struck you as being irrational."

"He told me that some time before the shooting people were looking at him in the street and sneering at him. I asked him who they were, and he replied that some of them were his friends and others were strangers."

Dr. Graeme M. Hammond was then recalled. He testified Thursday that McGowan was suffering from epileptic insanity. Dr. Hammond yesterday described the various forms of epilepsy.

Dr. Hammond then said that he believed McGowan was in the state known as "double consciousness" when he shot Rose Finn.

"All authorities agree," said Dr. Hammond, "that when a person is in a state of 'double consciousness' he is not responsible for his acts."

Dr. Hammond, in reply to Mr. McIntyre, said that as a general rule epileptics did not go "gunning" for people.

FAMOUS MEN WHO HAD FITS.

"Did you ever hear, Doctor, that Napoleon, Caesar, Washington and Co. were epileptics?"

## LOOKING INTO A DARK MIND

Testimony as to the Responsibility of McGowan, Who Killed His Sweetheart.

Dr. Tracy, Speaking as an Expert, Says That McGowan Was Not Accountable for His Acts.

STATE OF DOUBLE CONSCIOUSNESS.

The Doctor Under Cross-Examination Said He Had Read That Napoleon, Caesar, Washington and Cover Were Subject to Fits.

The trial of Michael McGowan for the murder of his sweetheart, Rose Finn, on July 10 last, was resumed yesterday in the criminal part of the Supreme Court before Justice Smyth.

McGowan sat with his gray-haired father, impassive and seemingly unconcerned, except for a continuous nervous winking of his eyelids as he stared into vacancy. He never changed his pose and did not speak to the equally impassive parent at his side. It seemed as though both tried hard to keep up an affected nonchalance as the case went on and the lawyers pictured graphically the details of the tragedy.

The first witness called was Dr. Ira O. Tracy, chief assistant in the Long Island Hospital for Insane. Dr. Tracy testified that he had treated between 3,500 and 4,000 cases of insanity during his professional career.

"Is there a Mrs. Mary Maguire confined at present in the Long Island Insane Hospital?" asked Mr. Chanler.

"Yes, there is," said the witness.

Mrs. Maguire is a first cousin of the defendant, and has been in the Flatbush Asylum for four years.

Mr. Chanler then read a long hypothetical question to the witness.

"Assuming all the facts in the question to be true, was the defendant on July 10 sane or insane?" asked Mr. Chanler.

Dr. Tracy paused a moment, and then replied slowly:

"The defendant was insane."

Dr. Tracy then stated that he examined the defendant on Friday last.

"The examination I made," said Dr. Tracy, "suggested to me that the defendant might be a dangerous lunatic."

THE DUMMY CHUCKER.

Assistant District Attorney McIntyre then cross-examined the witness.

"Did you ever hear of the dummy-chucker's case?" he asked.

"Not to my recollection," replied the witness.

"What! not ever heard of the dummy-chucker?" exclaimed Mr. McIntyre.

Mr. McIntyre then explained that the "dummy-chucker" was the nickname of a man who feigned insanity successfully for two years and a half and baffled all the experts. Then Dr. Tracy remembered he had read of such a case.

In reply to another question, Dr. Tracy said he had asked McGowan in the Tombs why he shot Rose Finn, and that he replied he did not know.

"Is that an irrational answer?" asked Justice Smyth.

"Well, in one way it is rational, and in another it is not."

"Do you believe he was irrational from that fact?" continued His Honor.

"I do not, sir."

"Well, now, tell us what action on the part of this defendant when you examined him struck you as being irrational."

"He told me that some time before the shooting people were looking at him in the street and sneering at him. I asked him who they were, and he replied that some of them were his friends and others were strangers."

Dr. Graeme M. Hammond was then recalled. He testified Thursday that McGowan was suffering from epileptic insanity. Dr. Hammond yesterday described the various forms of epilepsy.

Dr. Hammond then said that he believed McGowan was in the state known as "double consciousness" when he shot Rose Finn.

"All authorities agree," said Dr. Hammond, "that when a person is in a state of 'double consciousness' he is not responsible for his acts."

Dr. Hammond, in reply to Mr. McIntyre, said that as a general rule epileptics did not go "gunning" for people.

FAMOUS MEN WHO HAD FITS.

"Did you ever hear, Doctor, that Napoleon, Caesar, Washington and Co. were epileptics?"

"I have read so," was the reply.

"Did you ever hear that Napoleon never went to battle until after he got over his fit?"

Justice Smyth ruled out this question, and the witness got no chance to answer.

Dr. Owen T. Ward, the Tombs physician, was called to the stand, and testified that he considered McGowan's mental condition to have been normal when first confined to the prison, and that since then he had seen nothing in the man's conduct to indicate insanity.

Lawyer Chanler, for the defense, summed up the case in a dramatic manner with many gestures and much writhing of the body. He admitted that McGowan had done the murder, but questioned if any man in his right mind would have acted subsequently as he acted.

Before he was through Justice Smyth adjourned court till Monday forenoon.

FUN AT A FRENCH BALL.

Twenty-third Masquerade of L'Amitee—The Usual Fanciful Frolic—Five Thousand Maskers There.

For the twenty-third time in as many years the French waltzers of this city held their annual masquerade ball in the Lexington Avenue Opera House, early yesterday morning. Although candidates for membership in Societe Francaise d'Amitee must be waiters at the time of their election, only a small number of the members work in that humble capacity today. Nearly all of the charter members, who were hard-working waiters in 1873, are now proprietors or managers of big hotels and restaurants, or at the very least head waiters. Fully five thousand guests were present, and the ball was a great success.

Wine, women and the dance are the three factors essential to the success of a real French ball. All three were very much in evidence at this twenty-third reunion of L'Amitee. Although Thursday evening, January 9, was printed upon the tickets, the merry-makers did not begin to arrive until after midnight. Then, by twos and threes, the revelers poured into the dressing rooms in long black cloaks, and in a short time emerged again in all the glory of gaily colored costumes and brilliant sparkling trimmings.

UNCLE SAM AND JOHN BULL.

Lanky Uncle Sam, chunky John Bull and the doughty Kaiser Wilhelm frolicked about arm in arm like triplets of the same cradle. The inevitable Trilby, with her indispensable gray military coat and arched eyebrows, spent most of her time knocking off the helmets of two six-foot, fawcett-faced policemen with her historic quipped foot. A shapely Queen of the May in a scanty gown of gauze and a wreath of real pink roses kicked holes in the trousers of a stout, portly fellow who was dressed in the costume of a knight of the Middle Ages. The many broad-shouldered Johnnies, who looked about her, each one anxious that his hat should be the next to be ruined by her potent and other.

Zonaves, male and female, Frances Charmings, in silken hose and satin doublets of blue and red, and a host of other more cunning in anything they chose to wear, formed a picturesque set of dancers, which was gracefully dignified at 1 o'clock, and unceremoniously unglorified four hours later.

All the time-honored characters of the story book and the legend were there. Blue Beard and Robinson Crusoe and Sindbad the Sailor, Faust and his temptress, and a host of other more cunning in anything they chose to wear, formed a picturesque set of dancers, which was gracefully dignified at 1 o'clock, and unceremoniously unglorified four hours later.

Little Billee, Sir Joseph Porter and his Sweet Little Buttercup, the Two Little Maids in Blue, the King of the Bees, and Judy, soldiers and sailors of every land and every century, clowns, Pantaloon, Valetines, Chinamen with pig tails, Indians with feathered head-dresses, and tin snappers.

FUN FAST AND FURIOUS.

Max Schwab led the music and F. Voegel designed the costumes of the members. Twenty-four dances and the order, and as the morning grew old they became fast and furious, and somersaults and games of leapfrog were introduced to lend the spice of variety to the staid figures of the king and queen and quadrille. It was not an uncommon thing at 3 and 4 o'clock to behold a sturdy, round soldier of the Revolution scampering across the hall with a struggling golden fairy, very much alive and kicking under each heavy arm.

The "Twentieth Century Girl" of the illustrated papers, with her jaunty gown and diamond necklace, was seen in the crowd around the floor at a furious pace down gray-lined old papers, harnessed in lace and side-dress, and followed, and the game of some played-out and vanquished rival.

As much as the French population of New York and their American friends enjoyed the ball, the sentiments of all were warmly voiced in the chorus of the "L'Amitee," because it comes but once a year!

EX-CONVICTS MEET POLICE.

They Were Surprised in a Burglary in a Second Avenue Butcher's Store.

Michael Hittner, alias McGowan, eight years old, of No. 322 East Seventy-fifth street; James Malone, twenty years old, of No. 1234 Third avenue, and William Goff, twenty-one years old, of No. 235 East Seventy-third street, were committed in the Tombs yesterday morning on a charge of burglary.

The men were arrested at an early hour of the morning by the police, who had been informed by a tipster that they were in the neighborhood of the East Sixty-seventh Street Station. They were seen at the corner of Seventy-fifth street and Second avenue, where they were seen to enter a butcher shop while the two others entered the butcher shop of Charles Harbeck through the side door. The men were seen to enter the shop while the two others entered the butcher shop of Charles Harbeck through the side door.

Malone ran up the stairs to the third floor with Declin in pursuit. On the stairway he was met by a policeman, who had been informed by a tipster that they were in the neighborhood of the East Sixty-seventh Street Station. They were seen at the corner of Seventy-fifth street and Second avenue, where they were seen to enter a butcher shop while the two others entered the butcher shop of Charles Harbeck through the side door.

The men were arrested at an early hour of the morning by the police, who had been informed by a tipster that they were in the neighborhood of the East Sixty-seventh Street Station. They were seen at the corner of Seventy-fifth street and Second avenue, where they were seen to enter a butcher shop while the two others entered the butcher shop of Charles Harbeck through the side door.

Malone ran up the stairs to the third floor with Declin in pursuit. On the stairway he was met by a policeman, who had been informed by a tipster that they were in the neighborhood of the East Sixty-seventh Street Station. They were seen at the corner of Seventy-fifth street and Second avenue, where they were seen to enter a butcher shop while the two others entered the butcher shop of Charles Harbeck through the side door.

The men were arrested at an early hour of the morning by the police, who had been informed by a tipster that they were in the neighborhood of the East Sixty-seventh Street Station. They were seen at the corner of Seventy-fifth street and Second avenue, where they were seen to enter a butcher shop while the two others entered the butcher shop of Charles Harbeck through the side door.

## BURDEN HAS A NEW HOPE.

"Lawyer" Offers to Return the Stolen Jewels Upon Certain Conditions.

Assured That the Burglars Will Be Protected, but a Setting Must Be Produced.

LITTLE FAITH IN THE POLICE NOW.

Acting Captain O'Brien Returns the Compliment by Throwing Cold Water Upon the Looked-for Restoration Without His Aid.

The breach between I. Townsend Burden and his dimwit lawyer, as wide as ever, though Mr. Burden has repeatedly advertised that if the jewels were returned he would be forgiven. In addition he is willing to pay \$5,000 to the persons through whom the restoration may be brought about.

The breach between Mr. Burden and the Jewels is little wider than between him and the city detectives. He has lost faith in the ability of Captain O'Brien's men to catch anything, and has not much more confidence in the private detective agencies which he has put upon the trail.

Since Mr. Burden began advertising for the return of the jewels with "no questions asked" and immunity from punishment promised, he has been receiving a great many letters from amateur detectives who are too busy making a living to devote their energies to the case, otherwise, they say, they could clear up the mystery in brief order. Tied down as they are, they compromise by giving theories and clues which they are confident will lead to the final recovery of the stolen gems.

Of the many letters received nearly all are of the same tenor. They are full of attention. A few, however, have shown signs of sanity on the part of the writers, and these have been replied to by Mr. Burden in the manner indicated in them.

HOPE IN ONE LETTER.

One of them has caused Mr. Burden to have more hope of recovering the jewels than he has had at any time since they were stolen. It was received Wednesday, and the postmark showed it had been sent from the upper part of the city. All other clues to the author had been carefully removed, the writing being evidently from a person of some education.

"Lawyer," Mr. Burden refused to give the full text of the letter. The writer said, however, that he was empowered by the persons at present in possession of the jewels to negotiate for their return, providing Mr. Burden would bind himself to carry out the terms of the offer and make no effort to punish the thieves.

The writer of the letter showed considerable familiarity with the stolen property, and described several pieces accurately. Such a description could, however, have been obtained from the newspaper account of the robbery, and Mr. Burden was not satisfied with the proof that the writer could carry out his promise. He had been instructed to reply by means of a letter, and in a momentary caprice he had decided to insert the following:

"Lawyer—Necessary that you give proof before negotiating further that you control the property by sending a plea of guilty, which will be returned in way indicated."

What this method of returning the setting is Mr. Burden refused to say.

NEED NOT FEAR ARREST.

"I shall keep faith with the thieves," said he. "They need have no fear of arrest. I am willing to do anything proper to protect myself, and to return the property. There seems no chance of getting the jewels through the police, and I feel at liberty to use this course."

The police do not feel at all pleased over Mr. Burden's action.

"Mr. Burden has a right to do as he pleases," said Acting Captain O'Brien, who can negotiate with the thieves if he wants to. Still, it is not a safe thing to do in some respects."

BAREFOOTED IN THE SNOW.

The Man Was Drunk and Fell Unconscious.

Taken to the Hospital.

Policeman James McCormick, of the East Thirty-fifth Street Station, was on duty at Second avenue and Thirty-second street, about 6 o'clock yesterday morning, when he saw two men staggering toward him.

One of them carried his shoes in his hands, and was walking barefooted in the snow. Both were very drunk.

As the men reached the policeman the man with the bare feet fell unconscious on the sidewalk. An ambulance was called, and he was removed to Bellevue Hospital, where he was found to be suffering from alcoholism and exposure.

His companion was taken to the East Thirty-seventh Street Police Station and locked up for intoxication. He said his name was Victor Clezio and that he lived at No. 327 East Thirty-first street. He told the police the other man taken to Bellevue was his brother Albin.

According to the inebriated statement made by him the two are employed as kitchen boys of the Waldorf Hotel. The police learned later that the prisoner had been dismissed from the hotel for being drunk. The hospital is not his brother, and they are trying to fix his identity.

A SPREE ENDS FATALLY.

Mrs. Le Moire Burned to a Crisp and Her Daughter Badly Injured.

Maass, Jan. 10.—Shortly after 2 o'clock this morning there was discovered in a one and one-half-story building in Tenthman's court, occupied by a family named Le Moire, when the fire Department arrived the body of Mrs. Le Moire was found in a chamber, burned to a crisp, while the daughter, Annie, was lying on the stairway, terribly burned about the body, having been overcome by the smoke and flames while attempting to escape.

When the fire had been extinguished the father and son were found in a close room under the influence of liquor. The father was somewhat injured about the head, and was removed to the hospital. The mother's injuries will probably prove fatal.

The theory is that both the men and women were indulging in a spree, and that some way overturned the stove, which set fire to the house. They were too drunk to escape or give an alarm.

THE KNIFE FOUND A MAN.

Dead Body of a Tramp Discovered in a Hay Mow.

Pittsburg Junction, N. Y., January 10.—A terrible case of depraved and wretched humanity, who met death in an unknown manner, was revealed yesterday, when Julian Gear went to a barn on his farm to get a load of hay. The hay knife came in contact with the body of a man, lying face down, and showed it to be a man, lying face down, and undoubtedly a tramp. He had evidently been dead three weeks, doubtless from starvation or illness.

A mouse's nest was found in the inside of the leg of one boot. He was of sandy complexion and about fifty years of age.

Express Messenger Funk Is Lost.

Canandaigua, N. Y., Jan. 10.—F. M. Funk, of Harrisburg, Pa., an Adams Express messenger, running between Harrisburg and Canandaigua, has been completely disappeared as if the earth had opened and swallowed him. He arrived at Canandaigua on New Year's morning, but did not report at the office as usual. He has a wife and family, and was a very popular man. No sign of him has been found in his books.

REPUBLICAN WOMEN RECEIVE.

Mrs. J. Ellen Foster, the Guest of Honor, Makes a Speech.

The West End Auxiliary of the Women's National Republican Association gave a reception in honor of Mrs. J. Ellen Foster, the national president, in the rooms of the West Side Republican Club yesterday.

Mrs. J. Alexander Brown acted as hostess, assisted by Mrs. Clarence Brown, Mrs. Mabel Stevenson and Miss Hill and sang "Katie Washit Baxter played piano accompaniment."

Foster, in an address, upheld the right of the Venezuelan question, and expressed his sympathy for the people of that country.